



Conference Series on
Aging in the Americas



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
**FORMAL AND INFORMAL SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT
FOR OLDER PERSONS**
IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES,
IN THE CONTEXT OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE REFORM

September 17-18, 2015
Mexico City

Anchors of Community-based Long-term Care

Mexico –USA Workshop on Formal and Informal Systems of Support in
Mexico and the U.S. in the Context of Health and Welfare Reform

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Homeownership as an Anchor

- The term “home,” or “hogar” (hearth) in Spanish, communicates a complex set of emotionally charged referents.
- From a fairly romantic perspective a home is a haven in a heartless world; ideally it is a place where one finds intimacy, love, and safety; and it is a place that gives a family an identity situated in space and time.
- Food and shelter are the most basic necessities of life and individuals and families spend a great deal of time attempting to acquire their own home, even if in the end it does not conform to the ideal we have described.

Romanticism and Mythology Aside

- Owning a home gives Mexican American families the most important asset.
- Represents a major fraction of a family's total wealth.
- Homeownership may also serve as the anchor to intergenerational support systems in later life.
- Likely the largest portion of what they can leave to future generations.

Rationale

- Given the fact that a home represents a major material asset, formal ownership potentially gives the owner a certain degree of power and influence.
- We examine various complex issues related to home ownership and its relationship to family composition and dynamics.
- Our focus is particularly on comparisons of the living arrangements of older individuals who are the owners of the home in which they live and those who do not.
- Interest in the extent to which are older parents who live with one or more of their children retain ownership and health factors lead them to relinquish ownership, or at least the role of household head.

U.S. Hispanics and Homeownership

- The total value of assets owned by Hispanic families is ten times less than that of non-Hispanic white families, yet a large fraction of Hispanics own their homes.
- This results in a situation in which older Mexican Americans in particular are “house rich but cash poor.”
- Unlike liquid assets, a home ties one to community and to local social networks.

Housing equity is the most important asset of among Mexican-origin Elders

(Home ownership as a percentage of total net worth in parentheses)

	Non-Hispanic White	African-American	Mexican Origin
Couple or Single Male			
Housing Equity	182,740	97,609	93,614
Non-Housing Assets	458,375	103,934	90,852
	(28.5%)	(48.4%)	(50.7%)
Single Female			
Housing Equity	116,408	64,113	59,740
Non-Housing Assets	216,238	33,908	28,911
	(35%)	(95%)	(67.4%)

Note: Non-financial assets include: Social Security, pension, disability, annuity, and government transfer income.

Study Objectives

- To examine the relationship between homeownership and living arrangements defined in terms of household size and headship status (live alone/spouse, or as the head of household versus living as the non-head of household)
- To describe how homeownership directly and indirectly facilitates community residence
- To discuss implications of homeownership and living arrangements for family elder care- giving policy and for intergenerational financial relationships.

Data and Methods

- Probability sample of 3,050 Mexican-origin individuals in the Southwestern U.S. aged 65 and older initially interviewed in 1993-94 and re-contacted seven more times between 1995 and 2011.
- A new cohort of 902 individuals, 75 and older, was added in 2004 and recontacted in 2007 and 2010-11.
- At wave 7, 1,078 respondents were interviewed and asked to name a persons who they depend the most on for help (focal caregiver).
- **N = 629 dyads of elderly parent and adult child caregivers.**

Measures

Dependent Variable

We create a typology based on elderly parents reported household size and headship status.

- Type 1 = Live alone and Spouse Only
- Type 2 = Live with Others- Head of Household
- Type 3 = Live with Others= Non-Head of Household

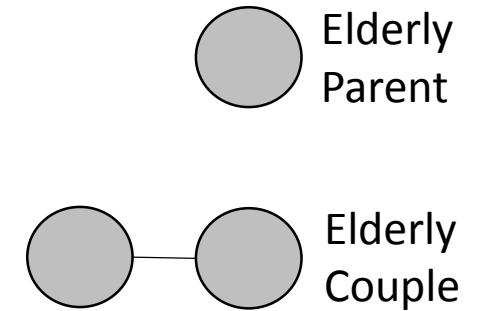
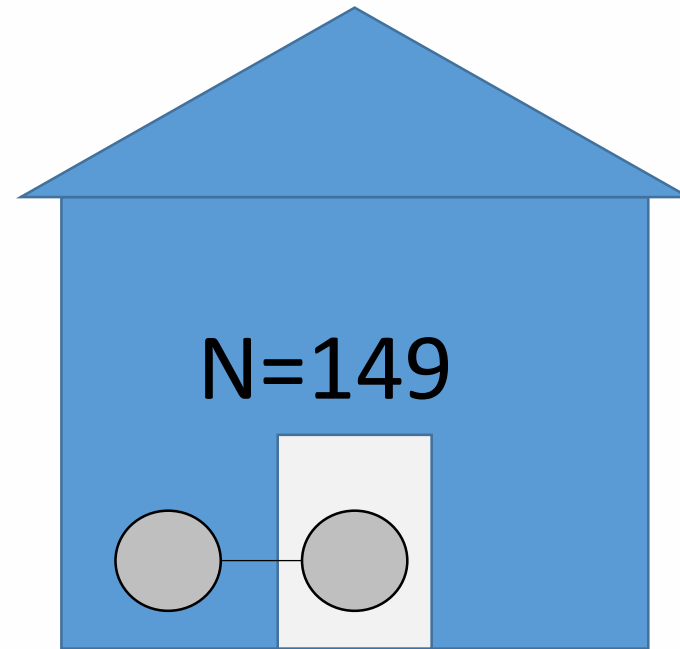
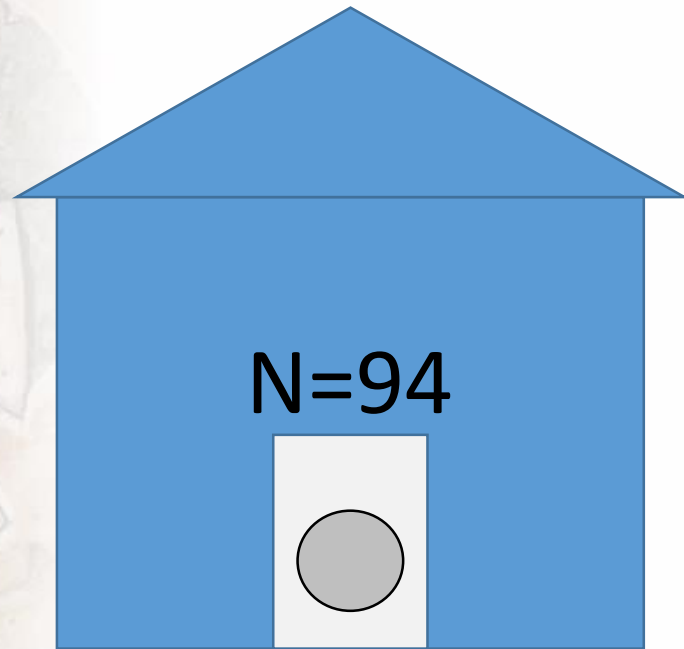
Independent Variables

- Home ownership

Covariates- Elderly parent and caregiver demographic characteristics, as well as parents' financial strain, ADL disability, and cognitive impairment.

Typology of living arrangements

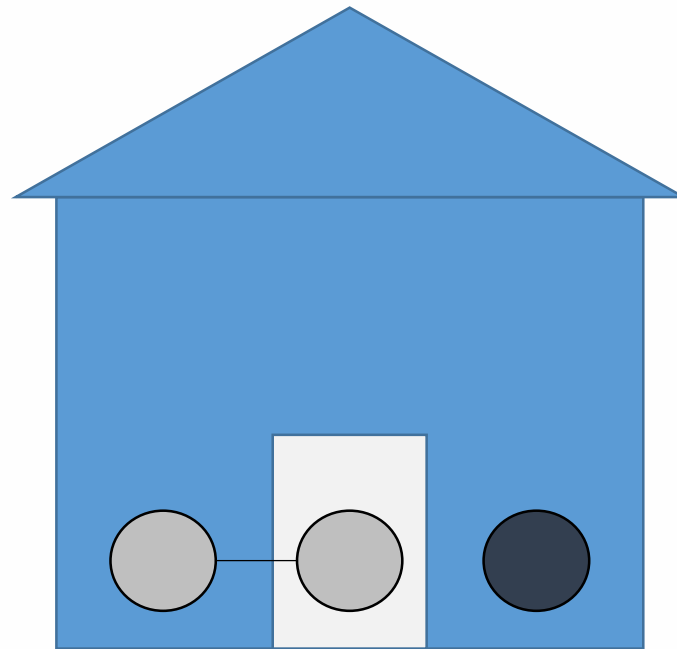
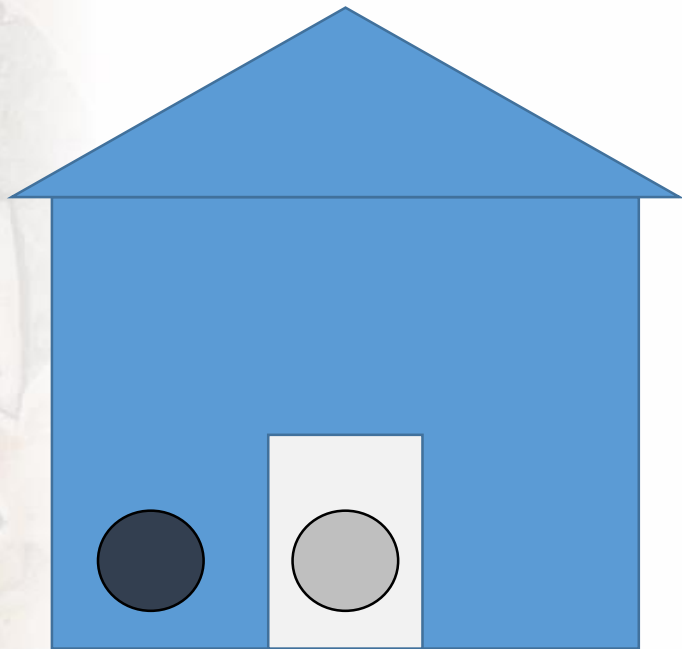
Alone – Spouse Only n=243



Mean Household size = 1.37

Typology of living arrangements

Living with others head of household n=233



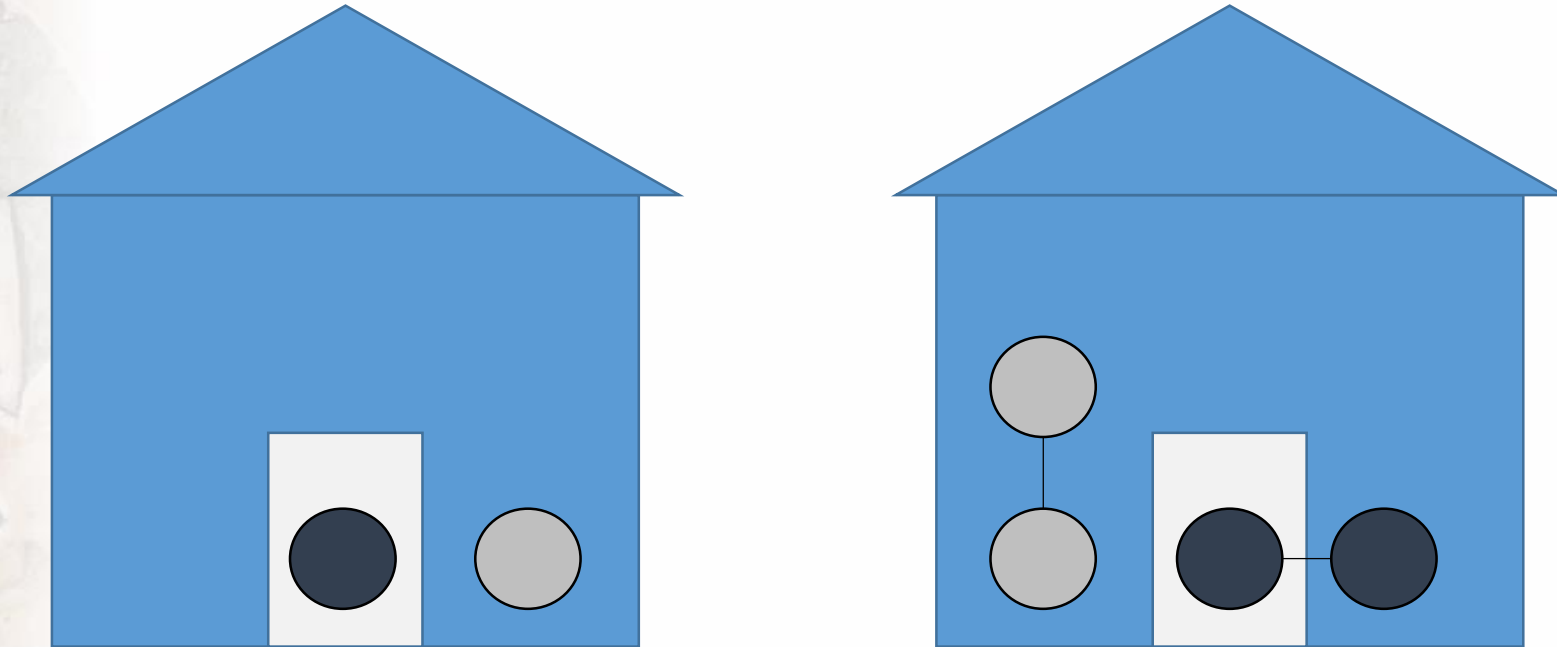
● Other person –
child/grand-child/
other family

Doorway represents
headship status

Mean Household size = 2.87

Typology of living arrangements

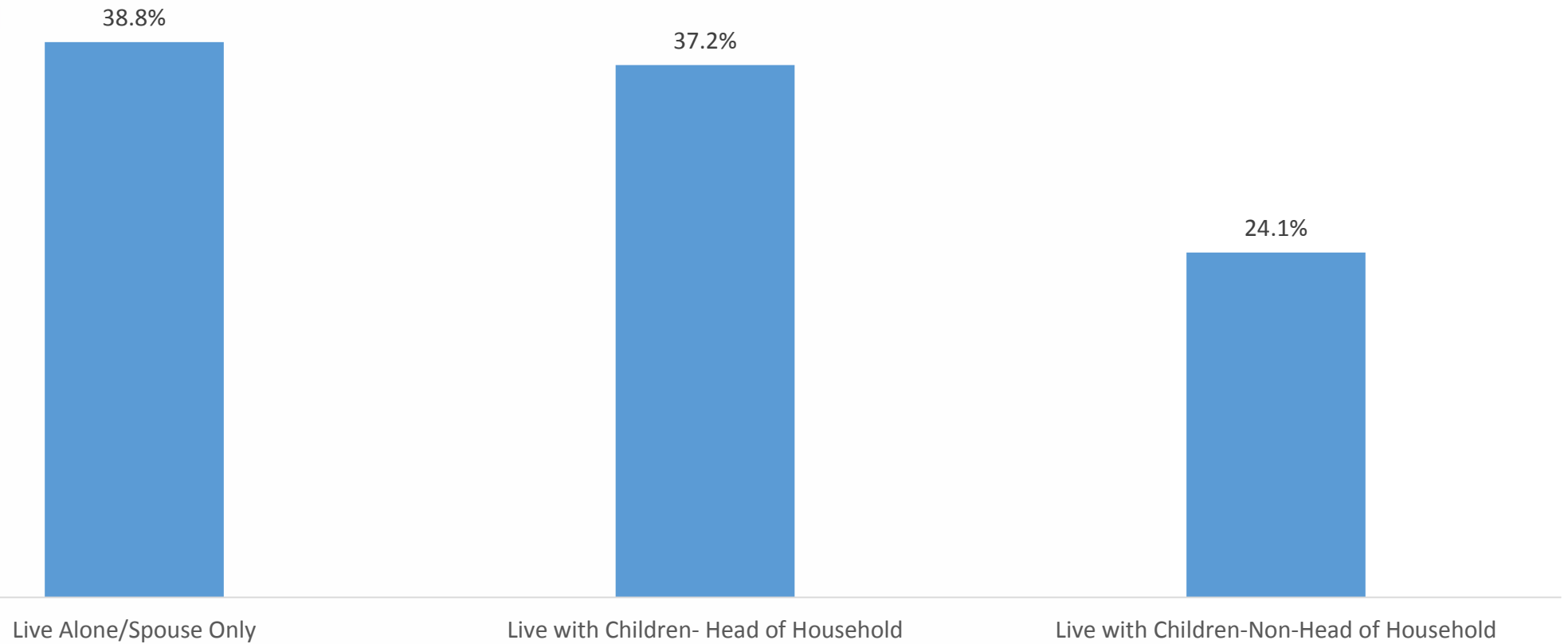
Living with others non head of household n=150



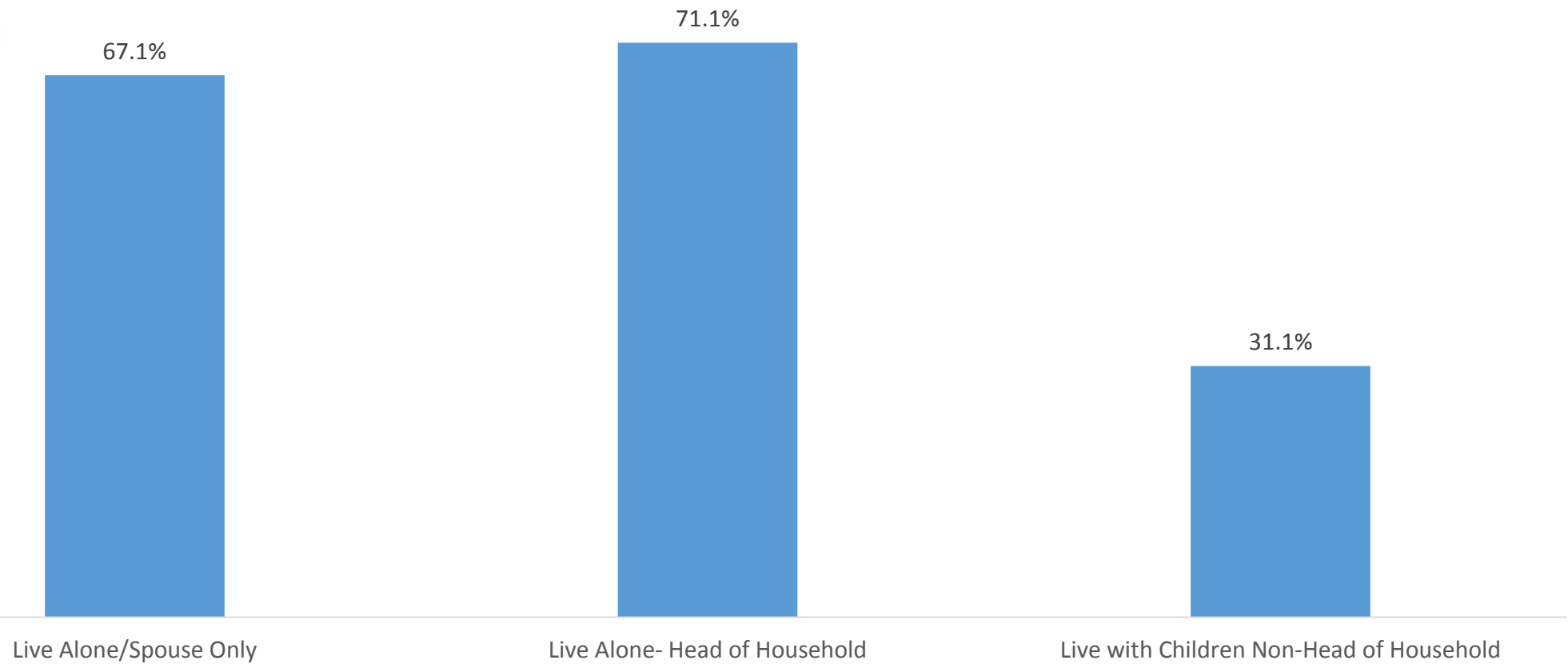
Doorway represents
headship status

Mean Household size = 4.12

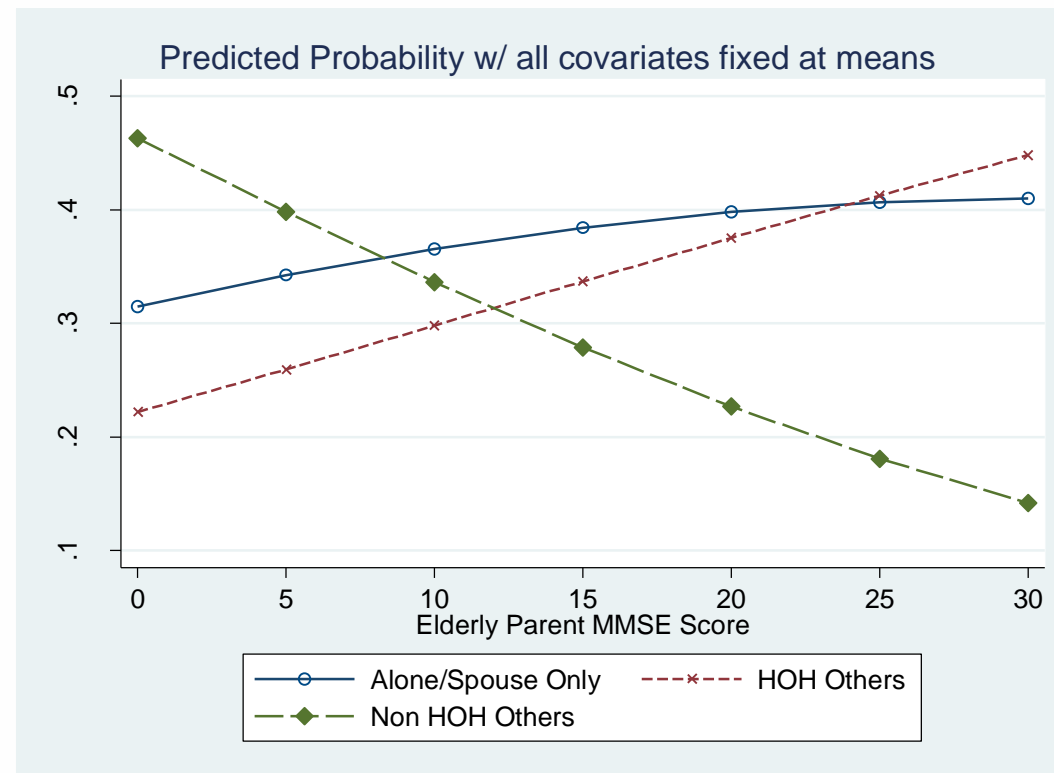
Typology of Living Arrangements by Headship Status



Home Ownership and Living Arrangements



Differences in Living Arrangements by Respondent's MMSE Score



Summary

- More than half (60%) of the parents own their place of residence (n=376).
- Non-home owners are three times as likely as homeowners to live as a non-head in an extended household.
- Head of household with others is associated with being more likely to report trouble with bills, while being a non head living with others is associated with less trouble with bills
- Living with children as a non-headed household is associated with functional dependency.
- Multivariate analyses reveal that severity of cognitive impairment increases the likelihood of living with others as a non-headed household.



Future Questions Emerging from These Patterns

1. What does homeownership imply in terms of an older individual's control over his or her personal situation?
2. What are the motivations for extension? Do children move in with parents or do parents move in with children?
3. How do the parent's and the child's financial situation affect the decision on where the parent lives?
4. How are decisions concerning which child will provide instrumental care to a frail parent?
5. Do children provide different forms of support, e.g., financial, transportation, help with ADLs, etc.
6. Will changes in the family and increasingly long lives with serious disability, especially dementia increase the use of nursing homes among Latinos?
7. How are decisions concerning the inheritance or disposition of the home made?
8. How can formal and informal sources of care be made more complementary?



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GRACIAS POR SU ATENCIÓN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION